

Message

From: [redacted] [/O=TSE/OU=TSEEXCHSITE01/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=U205602]
Sent: 25/01/2020 19:59:38
To: Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport [cabsechs@gov.scot]; Minister for Public Health, Sport and Wellbeing [ministerphsw@gov.scot]; First Minister [firstminister@gov.scot]
CC: Wright M (Malcolm) [malcolm.wright@gov.scot]; Calderwood C (Catherine) [catherine.calderwood@gov.scot]; Chief Medical Officer [cmo@gov.scot]; Communications Duty Box [communicationsdutybox@gov.scot]; Communications Healthier [communicationshealthier@gov.scot]; DG Health & Social Care [dghsc@gov.scot]; Director of Population Health [directorofpopulationhealth@gov.scot]; Grieve DA (Derek) [derek.grieve@gov.scot]; Hutchison D (David) [david.hutchison@gov.scot]; [redacted] NR
[redacted] NR Permanent Secretary [permanentsecretary@gov.scot]; Riley A (Andrew) Dr [andrew.riley2@gov.scot]; [redacted] NR Scottish Government Health Resilience Unit [sghru@gov.scot]; SGoRR Information [sgorinformation@gov.scot]; Smith G (Gregor) [gregor.smith@gov.scot]; [redacted] NR
[redacted] NR Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs [cabsecctea@gov.scot]; Minister for Europe, Migration and International Development [ministeremid@gov.scot]; [redacted] NR @gov.scot; Healy M (Michael) [michael.healy@gov.scot]; [redacted] NR
[redacted] NR
[redacted] NR Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills [dfmcse@gov.scot]; DG Education, Communities & Justice [dgecj@gov.scot]; [redacted] NR
[redacted] NR
[redacted] NR Minister for Public Health, Sport and Wellbeing [ministerphsw@gov.scot]; Goudie A [redacted] NR @gov.scot; Wright M (Malcolm) [malcolm.wright@gov.scot]; [redacted] NR
[redacted] NR @gov.scot; syed.ahmed2@nhs.net; Ahmed S (Syed) (Dr) [syed.ahmed@gov.scot]; Riley A (Andrew) Dr [andrew.riley2@gov.scot]; [redacted] NR
[redacted] NR @gov.scot]

Subject: RE: WN Co-V Daily Briefing 25 January - update on how the disease is transmitted

All,

In relation to whether the virus can be transmitted only by people with symptoms, I have received the following advice from Dr Jim McMenamin, HPS and will raise this with DHSC tomorrow:

“I just spoke with Professor Nick Phin who in turn had sought a view from PHE Clinical Lead Dr Jake Dunning. We know very little about this virus currently, but it is likely that person to person transmission, when it does occur, mostly involves transmission of virus from people with symptoms.

This is supported by the following:

1. The routes of transmission for WN-CoV are not clear yet, because this is such a new disease;
2. Until scientific data emerge, from what we know of other respiratory infections, particularly acute infections caused by other coronaviruses, it is reasonable to assume that exposure to large respiratory droplets (such as those produced by coughing) will be the main way in which infections spread between people. Other routes of transmission are likely to occur, such as touching a contaminated surface and then subconsciously touching one’s eyes or lips, but based on knowledge of SARS and MERS, we think this is a lesser route of transmission.
3. Accepting this assumption, and according to basic principles, it follows that infected people with symptoms (e.g. someone who is coughing) are much more likely to spread virus around that someone who is infected but free of symptoms.